

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A low pressure beverage preparation system as for automatically preparing a range of beverage types from a range of beverage cartridges, the system comprising:

a beverage preparation machine;

and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients associated with a specific beverage type, wherein the beverage preparation system comprises:

a. means for receiving one of said plurality of beverage cartridges in said beverage preparation machine and means for supplying, in use, to said beverage cartridge an aqueous medium at a pressure of less than 2 bar to produce a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients contained therein;

b. a reader in said beverage preparation machine for automatically interpreting a code written on said beverage cartridge;

c. processing means for creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;

d. means for automatically adjusting a temperature of said aqueous medium based on said code prior to supply of said aqueous medium to the beverage cartridge;

e. means in at least some of said plurality of beverage cartridges for optionally, dependant on beverage type, producing foaming of the beverage;

f. a user interface for initiating an operating cycle; and

g. means for purging the beverage cartridge after dispensing of the beverage;

wherein the beverage preparation system can produce a range of beverage types including at least, but not limited to, filtered coffee, cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, wherein the range of beverage types includes coffee, milk, soup and fruit juices and wherein operation of the user interface is independent of the beverage type being dispensed.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 3 further comprising means for controlling the flow rate of aqueous medium into the cartridge.

Claim 5 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising means for controlling the volume of aqueous medium delivered to the cartridge.

Claim 6 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 5 wherein one or more of the beverage ingredients is a liquid.

Claim 7 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 6 wherein one or more of the beverage ingredients is dairy-based.

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Claim 8 (Original): A low pressure beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 7 wherein the system may also be used with one or more cartridges comprising one or more non-beverage ingredients, for preparation of non-beverage products, such as sauces and desserts.

Claims 9 – 23 (Canceled)